

Attorney's Docket No.: 10559-380001/P10186
Intel Corporation

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method comprising:

registering a first plurality of agents, during installation; and

~~performing a first discovery operation including collecting and aggregating data from a first plurality of network devices with said first plurality of agents, said data including two or more duplicate data entries,~~

~~coalescing said data in a software file comprising a discovery document, said coalescing comprising,~~

~~removing all but one of the duplicate data entries from said discovery document,~~

~~assigning a key to each network device based on a precedence file containing instructions for generating keys, and appending said precedence file to said discovery document,~~

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registering an additional agent during an upgrade without
modifying the first plurality of agents or discovery
methodology,; and

~~performing a second discovery operation with a second~~
~~plurality of agents including said first plurality of agents and~~
~~said additional agent.~~

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein said first plurality of agents include a plurality of discovery agents and a plurality of aggregator agents.

14. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein said registering the additional agent comprises storing an agent file describing attributes of the additional agent in an agent directory.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the agent file comprises an Extensible Markup Language (XML) file.

16. (Currently Amended) An article, including instructions residing on a computer-readable medium, the instructions causing a computer to:

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receive discovery data collected from a plurality of network device devices by two or more a first plurality of discovery agents registered during installation;

receive discovery data collected from a network device by an additional discovery agent registered during an upgrade;

aggregate said discovery data collected from a second plurality of discovery agents, the second plurality of discovery agents including the first plurality of discovery agents and the additional discovery agent;

generate a relationship file characterizing relationships among network devices identified by the two or more second plurality of discovery agents;

coalesce the discovery data in a software file comprising a discovery document, said discovery data including two or more duplicate data entries; and

remove all but one of the duplicate data entries from the discovery document.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 17 16, wherein the instructions that cause the computer to receive discovery data comprise instructions that cause the computer to

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call said ~~two or more~~ second plurality of discovery agents from the agent directory.

19. (Currently Amended) The article of claim ~~17~~ 16, wherein the instructions that cause the computer to aggregate said data comprise instructions that cause the computer to call ~~two or more~~ aggregator agents listed in an agent directory.

20. (Currently Amended) The article of claim ~~17~~ 16, wherein the agent directory comprises a plurality of Extensible Markup Language (XML) files.

21. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 16, wherein the instructions that cause the computer to remove the second duplicate data entry comprise instructions that cause the computer to:

identify two or more agents responsible for generating the two or more duplicate data entries, each agent having a priority value;

compare the priority values of the two or more agents;

identify a first agent having a highest priority, said first agent responsible for generating a first duplicate data entry in the two or more duplicate data entries; and

remove all but the first duplicate data entry.

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22. (Original) The article of claim 21, wherein the two or more agents are discovery agents.

23. (Original) The article of claim 21, wherein the two or more agents are aggregator agents.

24. (Original) The article of claim 16, wherein the discovery document is an Extensible Markup Language (XML) file.

25. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 16, wherein the instructions that cause the computer to receive discovery data comprise instructions that cause the computer to receive discovery data collected from ~~two or more~~ a plurality of network devices by said ~~two or more~~ second plurality of discovery agents.

26. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 25, further comprising instructions that cause the computer to:

store the discovery document in a discovery database;
and

generate a key for each discovered network device in the discovery document.

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27. (Currently Amended) An article, including instructions residing on a computer-readable medium, the instructions causing a computer to:

registering a first plurality of agents, during installation; and

~~performing a first discovery operation including collecting and aggregating data from a first plurality of network devices with said first plurality of agents said data including two or more duplicate data entries,~~

~~coalescing said data in a software file comprising a discovery document, said coalescing comprising:~~

~~removing all but one of the duplicate data entries from said discovery document,~~

~~assigning a key to each network device based on a precedence file containing instructions for generating keys, and~~

~~appending said precedence file to said discovery document,~~

registering an additional agent during an upgrade without modifying the first plurality of agents or discovery methodology; and

~~performing a second discovery operation with a second plurality of agents including said first plurality of agents and said additional agent.~~

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28. (Original) The article of claim 27, wherein said first plurality of agents include a plurality of discovery agents and a plurality of aggregator agents.

29. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 28, wherein the instructions that cause the computer to register the additional agent comprise instructions that cause the computer to store an agent file describing attributes of the additional agent in an agent directory.

30. (Original) The article of claim 29, wherein the agent file comprises an Extensible Markup Language (XML) file.